

# OPEN AIR CHRONICLE PLAY FOR PHILADELPHIA

History of Quaker City to Be Presented in Most Ambitious Pageant Yet Attempted in This Country—Indians, Soldiers, Ladies, Settlers and Penn Himself to Be in Show on Belmont Plateau

By DR. ELLIS P. OBERHOLTZER  
Director of the Pageant.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 3. **A**S our most successful historical pageant, given here during Founders Week, in October, 1908, was in the form of a gorgeous procession of costumed characters and floats on Broad street, I find there are some persons who have not yet rightly understood what we propose to do when we give the historical pageant on Belmont plateau next October. They still seem to associate with the pageant a parade of some sort or other. Of course what we are going to give will be nothing

of the kind. Briefly it will be a spectacular kind of chronicle play. Intended to be educational as well as highly artistic the production will strive to make plain the story of the founding and rise of the city of Philadelphia. This will be worked out in a series of episodes, some of them subdivided into scenes.

As the whole pageant is to be given out of doors and on a stage which has for its platform the green lawn of the Belmont plateau and for its roof the skies it will be understood that only such scenes as may be given in this manner without too much strain on one's good nature and sense of fitness will be included in the pageant. In other words those events and scenes which took place entirely within doors cannot be given or represented in the pageant. The signing of the Declaration of Independence and the scene of the framing and signing of the Constitution are examples of the kind of events in possible in an outdoor play.

But it should not be thought that either of these important episodes in the history of the city as well as of the nation is to be ignored, for that will not be the case. They will be treated in a manner that will fit in with the limitations of a pageant. It is entirely safe to promise that the pageant will be the largest outdoor spectacle of its kind ever attempted in this country. I do not recall even any English pageant that will have surpassed it either for size or for careful attention to historic accuracy of costumes. In the preparation for the pageant I have made several visits to England in order to see the big pageants held there during the last few years and work on the production has now been in almost constant progress for the last six months. The services of artists, historians, costumeurs, archaeologists and musicians have been secured and the result, I believe, will be creditable to Philadelphia.

There will be about 4,000 costumed players in the production, including large bodies of British, French and Continental troops.

The pageant will be a series of gracefully moving pictures, each one reproducing a scene in the city's history, and these will move to the music of trained choruses and of bands. The book of the pageant, or so much of it as is practical or lyrical, is the work of Francis Howard Williams. The music, much of it composed for the production, has been written by Dr. Hugh A. Clarke of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Clarke has also arranged many of the old airs and marches which once were popular, so that the pageant will also be the vehicle for hearing tunes that have not been played for a century or more.

The period covered by the pageant

extends from the days of the Indians and the early settlers to the consolidation of the city. There will be a prologue, an epilogue and eight episodes, containing from one to three scenes.

In the prologue will be seen the Indians in their native dress and illustrating several of their customs. For this scene there will be a large number of Indians, girls as well as boys, from the Indian school at Cayle. In the prologue also will be the scenes of the coming of the Dutch, of the Swedes and of the English.

Penn's presence in his province will be the theme of the first episode. In the first scene his landing at the Blue Anchor Inn will be reproduced, and his second visit to his capital city will be the subject of the second scene.

A great deal has been heard about

the Boston tea party, but the fact that Philadelphia was really in the van in the fight against the admission of the tea is too little understood. Here there were enthusiastic meetings of the people in the old State House yard, and they were so firm in their declaration that they would not allow the tea to be brought to the port that the captain of the ship Polly did not venture further up the river than Gloucester. This will form the subject of the second episode.

The third episode is to deal with the Declaration of Independence. There will be two scenes. In the first the reception of the delegates to the Continental Congress will be represented and in the second the reading of the Declaration.

The fourth episode might be named the British in Philadelphia, for its three scenes

are connected with the occupation of the city by the King's troops. In the first one we are shown the Battle of Germantown as it took place around Chew's house. In the second the British army in Philadelphia is represented, and the third scene will give an idea of the historic Meschianza.

There is a gorgeousness about the Meschianza, which was mainly designed by Major Andre, that lends itself readily to the purposes of a pageant. In this scene will appear the British officers and some of their troops in costumes designed after research in England and in this country, and by such experts in military costume as Charles Moukies of Oxford University, and Charles M. Lofferts.

In this scene there will also be seen the famed Meschianza costumes of the ladies who attended the fête. These gowns have been especially designed for the pageant. The result will be a splendid colorful assemblage of brilliantly dressed officers and gorgeously gowned ladies. The most interesting event in connection with the Meschianza is the tournament. This scene, which requires skilled horsemen, will have the services of some members of Troop A of the National Guard.

While there will not be so much action in the episode which will picture Franklin at the court of France, it will be equally brilliant by reason of the costumes worn by both men and women in the scene, and the arrival of the great philosopher

himself in the sedan chair which had been loaned him by the King will be a scene of great beauty.

The sixth episode includes the Federal convention, the reception to President Washington and the excitement which followed upon the news of the French revolution. These scenes will be full of color and spirit.

The present year being the centenary of the war of 1812, the seventh episode will be concerned entirely with representing its effect upon Philadelphia. In this scene the State Fencibles, which were organized during that war, will take part, uniformed as they were a hundred years ago.

Another scene that will be filled with color and military interest will be shown in the eighth episode, which will be devoted to Lafayette's visit to Philadelphia. The scene to be reproduced will be the reception to the distinguished friend of American independence.

The epilogue deals with the consolidation of the city, which will be presented rather symbolically. At the close of the epilogue there will be a march past by all the characters in the pageant. This procession will be in itself a beautiful spectacle.

In addition to the various organizations which will take part there will be a large number of descendants of historic characters in the pageant. The Von Steuben

family will have its representative, a descendant from the Baron of Revolutionary fame; Edwin Adams will represent Samuel Adams in the Declaration scene; Franklin will be represented by at least a dozen of his descendants. Pastorius, the founder of Germantown, will be represented by one who not only is his descendant but who bears the same name—Francis Daniel Pastorius of Colorado Springs; William Wayne will appear as his famous ancestor, Gen. Anthony Wayne; the Chew family will be represented, and Joseph Parker Norris will represent the Norris family.

These do not by any means exhaust the descendants of famous early Philadelphians who will be seen in the pageant; indeed the enrollment is still going forward very rapidly.

Thus far there have been about 2,000 persons enrolled. The 2,000 more who will be needed, will, I am satisfied, enroll long before they are needed, judging by the number who enroll every day.

Great and even lively interest is being taken in the pageant by various organizations that have offered their help. The Boys' Brigade, as in 1908, will represent the British soldiery; the Cooper Battalion will appear as the French troops; the patriotic order, Sons of America, before, will represent the Continental troops; and the Fencibles will appear as a body, while the Second City Troop will take its own historic part in the spectacle.



Dr. Ellis P. Oberholzer  
Director of Pageant

## JEAN CRAPAUD GARBED IN NEW ARMY UNIFORM

The New France, as the patriotic revival of the last year has come to be called, had its artistic phase in the appearance of a new set of military uniforms at the Fourteenth of July review in Paris. Five hundred thousand spectators watched the military demonstration.

The new uniforms were designed by Edouard Detaille, the last of the great French battle painters, a pupil of Meissonier, and now himself well along in years. France has a way of recognizing her great specialists in their lifetime, and Detaille has had a chance to stamp his personality on the costumes of his age as few artists have ever consciously done. Within two years France will have an army like that of which he has dreamed, an artist's ideal transferred to the pages of history. In his work, the artist was assisted by the ablest military men in France, so that the results may be taken as indicative of the French concept of the most modern, efficient and economical dress for any army.

So far only the uniform of the infantry and the petty officers has been made public. Five companies of the Twenty-eighth Regiment were fully equipped on the occasion of the review.

Most interesting to the American observer is the fact that in the new uniforms the French cap is retained and the campaign hat, to Americans and English the only really sensible head covering for a soldier, is left still to the military of the Anglo-Saxon. In the campaign uniform of Detaille, the French cap of the present is retained, with its slightly curved visor and its crushed crown.

It is in the headgear of the dress uniform that the chief departure of the new designs is found. This is a gunmetal casque, surmounted by a comb of yellow brass, an exceptionally businesslike and decorative piece of equipment, but a trifle heavy. The Frenchmen at the review found their chief objection to it in its supposed similarity to the German helmet. There is really little resemblance, for the modern looking dull black steel of the French helmet suggests papier-mâché rather than the polished nickel with its great brass eagle worn by the German soldier.

The ugly long trousers are banished completely in the new designs, both in fatigue and dress uniforms. For both they are replaced by full knickerbockers of dull red and bandage puttees of dark brown. The red is the same as that used in the old uniforms, both for the regiments and zouaves.

The difference between full dress and fatigue uniform in the new designs lies in the coats, after cap and helmet have been noted. For fatigue service the light blue gray coat extending to the knees and looking more like an overcoat than a blouse has been adopted. This is a model that has been used in the French army before, and is supposed to combine in one garment the advantages of blouse, overcoat and breeches. Its color in the Detaille design is much lighter than anything but the dress uniform of the Hussars of the present day.

The dress coat of the Detaille design is short, straight collared, and

fastened in front with nine brass buttons. On the shoulders are epaulettes of red wool, too closely lined with French military glory to be eliminated.

The color of the coats has not yet been settled upon. At the review two colors were used, dark olive green or brown, and dark blue gray. Both are

pleasing and it will be interesting to see which color meets the taste of the French public, with whom, finally, the decision will rest.



THE FRENCH BATTILING MAN AS HE WILL APPEAR IN HIS NEWLY DESIGNED UNIFORM.

## FAMOUS SPEECH THAT FULLY PERSUADED

Rattlesnake Bill was christened William C. by his parents shortly after his birth in the wilds of Webster county some fifty odd years ago, but during his adolescence period he derided so many rattlesnakes that the other boys gave him the sobriquet of Rattlesnake Bill. The country was mountainous, rocky and rough, covered with huckleberry bushes and laurel, where the rattlesnakes multiplied and flourished, as did the moonshine stills, which afforded the popular and necessary antidote for the snake's bite—until Bill's advent as a snake hunter.

As he grew older the number of snakes grew less and the moonshine stills diminished in like proportion until both became practically extinct. Having delivered the county of its two greatest evils Rattlesnake Bill wanted in popularity and became a power in his community. He was authority on the three principal industries of his county: Hunting, fishing and "singing" hunting ginseng. He was a Democrat because everybody else in the county was a Democrat, and it was no use to be anything else.

When his party was in power in the State Rattlesnake Bill was selected to champion the claims of any aspirant for an appointive office from his county. On one occasion one of his neighbors was an applicant for appointment to the office of clerk of the hospital for the insane. His opponent was also a resident of Webster county, having moved into that county only a few years previous from another State. The native son got Bill to press his claims before the board of directors when it met to make the appointment. He unbound himself from his seat, got his six foot angular frame up to its full height, and began his deep throated speech by saying:

"My friend whom I have the honor of presenting for your appointment as clerk was born and raised in Webster county, which, as you know, means that he is a dyed in the wool Dimmocrat, and one of the best sang (singing) singers in the State. He kin sling his judas poke over his shoulder in the mornin', go out an' find and fetch in more sang in one day than that other feller ever sang."

"He is a smart feller too. He kin tell black haws from pizen berries an' paw-paws from May apples the mint he sets his eyes on 'em. He knows ramps from Injun turnips an' kin tell the difference between moonshine an' lightning hot-drops without tastin' 'em. He knows how to play a good enough game of draw poker to travel on a steamboat, an' kin hidle the 'Fisher's Hornpipe' an' dance the double shuffle till the cows come home."

"He can outrun, outfight an' outchop any man in Webster county an' he kin

lick his weight in wilecats. He don't put on airs and wear store clothes and chaw store tobacco, but wears the good ole homespun jeans of his forefathers an' chaws hillside dogies. So he is the right feller to appoint to this job, 'cause he's qualified. The other feller is not by a mile."

"In the first place he's a furriner an' don't know sang an' can't relish eatin' half a dozen pawpaws before breakfast. He's nothin' but a dude. He wears store clothes, toothpick shoes an' parts his hair in the middle before a lookin' glass like a woman. He eats his beans with a fork instid of a knife, an' wipes his mouth on a clean handkercher instid of the back of his hand. He wants to wash inside the house in warm water, jes like a baby."

"He wears a gold watch an' chain, an' smokes five cent seggars. He don't know a bear track from a coon track, an' can't tell the difference between the rattle of a rattlesnake an' a pheasant drummin'. He don't know what yerburea bellyache, 'ner when the sign is right to plant potatoes."

"He might as well set on the mantel in the front room, where they have brasses carpets on the floor, phonographs an' plush rockin' cheers, but he can't hold a man's job down—no s'ree! He is no more fit for that air job than a Republican is to enter heaven—"

And that in Rattlesnake Bill's mind was an utter absurdity and improbability. The directors, being good Democrats and natives, were swayed by Bill's speech into appointing him man.

missing watch was found secreted under a pile of rags, where it had been hidden by a chimpanzee owned by the woman.

Mrs. Charles T. Yerkes at one time maintained a collection of forest folk in her home in upper Fifth avenue. One floor was devoted to the use of the creatures. Occasionally there was an escape from her menagerie, and one day an owl flew out and sought refuge in Central Park. A servant from the Yerkes house started in pursuit of the bird, but did not have success in overtaking it. He enlisted the aid of the park keepers and after a hunt lasting two days the owl was captured and returned to its home.

If you have raccoons in your home keep a watchful eye on all articles within reach of the animals. They will steal anything from a pocket knife to a diamond ring. Notwithstanding the trouble necessitated by guarding against the mischievous habits of the creatures, they are members of many households. They are fond of milk and will resort to all sorts of tricks and subterfuges to obtain it.

## PET ANIMAL AND BIRD FAD GROWING

According to a downtown dealer in animals the fad for collecting animals and birds as pets is rapidly growing. It has been particularly noticeable among wealthy folk, although dwellers in East Side tenements are adding parrots and monkeys to their collections of pigeons.

If the owner of a household menagerie is a woman she generally starts her collection by purchasing a monkey or two. Marmosets seem to be the most popular species among the simians. This is due, perhaps, to the fact that they are the smallest and the most attractive in appearance of the monkey tribe in America. In size and shape they are much like squirrels and can be carried about in small bags or shoe boxes.

Macraques and chimpanzees are also popular household pets. The macraques become ill tempered as they grow old. If taken into households when young they can be easily trained and will remain docile under proper treatment. One drawback to making chimpanzees members of a household is their tendency to howl day and night without provocation. Their forest life, or that of their ancestors, has given them a terror of humans, but this disappears when they become used to civilized environment.

It behooves the woman who keeps monkeys in her home to watch her jewels, for the animals are fond of bright and shining objects and will snatch them up as opportunities to do so. In connection with their thieving propensities a story is told of a woman who missed one day a gold watch which she had placed on a bureau. The police were summoned to investigate, and the servants in the house were under suspicion till the

The larger animals, like bears and panthers, do not always find city homes. Col. Anthony R. Kuser has an excellent collection of various kinds of animals in Bernardsville, N. J.

W. E. D. Stokes is particularly fond of monkeys and until recently had a large collection of simians. He gave away many of his pets. The dealer in animals and birds has little difficulty in disposing of canaries and parrots. There is a good market also for macraques among the owners of private aviaries. Some of the birds enjoy the advantages of travel and education. A parrot that was presented to the Central Park menagerie by the woman owner of an aviary is able to speak French.